United Nations S/2007/543

Security Council

Distr.: General
18 September 2007
English
Original: French

Letter dated 17 September 2007 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you the communication from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Democratic Republic of the Congo dated 15 September 2007 concerning the situation that continues to affect the eastern border areas of the country (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Ileka **Atoki**
Ambassador

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Annex to the letter dated 17 September 2007 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Communication of the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs to the diplomatic corps accredited to the Democratic Republic of the Congo

15 September 2007

I thank you for responding to our Saturday invitation and agreeing to give up your customary weekend activities. Sometimes, too, it is nice for us to get together even for a communication of a few minutes.

Both you and I have been following very closely the situation of our civil and military compatriots and the situation in the eastern border regions. And it is this now very worrying situation that is the reason for our meeting today.

We are receiving alarming reports on a daily basis about the deteriorating security situation. And this is why, with reference to the statement made to the press on 11 September 2007 by the President of the Security Council concerning the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo would like to inform you of the following:

1. The current tensions in the provinces of North and South Kivu are the direct consequence of the continued presence in this part of our country of regular armies and armed groups and militias, mainly from Rwanda.

2. The Democratic Republic of the Congo is in no way responsible for the presence of these armed elements on its territory, elements which, moreover, it has never invited.

3. The Democratic Republic of the Congo has no hidden agenda vis-à-vis its neighbours. It would like to maintain the best possible relations and to live in peace and on good terms with all neighbouring countries, thereby pursuing its vision of a diplomacy of peace and development.

More specifically, with regard to Rwandan citizens in its territory, the Democratic Republic of the Congo wishes to restate its position that all armed citizens of Rwanda, whoever they may be, must return home. The Democratic Republic of the Congo calls upon the Rwandese Republic to create political conditions that are conducive to the return of the ex-FAR to their country as soon as possible in order to restore stability to the Great Lakes region.

4. The Democratic Republic of the Congo reaffirms its determination to abide by the commitments undertaken and set out in the joint communiqué of 3 September 2007, which was issued on the occasion of the official visit to Kinshasa by Mr. Charles Morigande, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Rwanda.

5. The Democratic Republic of the Congo expresses its surprise at the Security Council's request to begin a dialogue with Mr. Laurent Nkundabatware.

6. The Security Council seems to have forgotten that Mr. Laurent Nkundabatware ranks high on the list of persons and entities subject to the measures imposed by paragraphs 13 and 15 of its resolution 1596 (2005) of 18 April 2005. The individual

in question is a war criminal, who has been identified as such by the United Nations, and more specifically by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in his report (S/2002/764), which was considered by the Security Council at its 4705th meeting, held on 13 February 2003.

7. At a time when the international community is marking the anniversary of the cowardly terrorist attacks of 11 September 2001, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, a partner in the fight against international terrorism, is of the view that no effort should be spared to bring to justice Mr. Laurent Nkundabatware, a Rwandan terrorist who has undeniable responsibility for the most serious violations of human rights and international humanitarian law in the Congo.

8. The Democratic Republic of the Congo calls for justice for the millions of men, women and children of Burundi, Rwanda and our country, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, whose basic human rights have been denied them.

9. The Democratic Republic of the Congo reaffirms its firm commitment to continuing its partnership and cooperation with the international community as a whole and with the Security Council in particular with a view to finding a lasting or even definitive solution to the breakdown of international peace and stability, which has cast a pall over the Great Lakes region for more than a decade now and which is preventing our Government from carrying out its reconstruction.

You will agree with me that the comments made in the statement made to the press on 11 September 2007 by the President of the Security Council concerning the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo are a matter of concern to us and that it was therefore necessary for the Government, through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, to issue this statement.

You who share on a daily basis the reality of our situation with us should relay to your Governments the reality of all the families, women, and children who are raped and violated in the worst possible ways. It is time for us all to work to neutralize the former general Laurent Nkundabatware.